

I have been an amateur radio operator (AL7FS) since 1965 and hold the Amateur Extra Class license. The 20 wpm code test was required for my Extra Class ticket.

Amateur Radio growth has been held back artificially for too long by the requirement for morse code. Instead of a major and critical mode as it was 50 years ago, it has become just one of many dozens of modes available to ham radio. I still use morse code on High Frequency (HF) for over 90% of all my contacts. I happen to enjoy the morse code, however, it is time to stop making it a required skill to enter the General and Extra Class ranks. There is no longer a logical reason to use it in the tests.

I urge the FCC to drop the code requirement as stated in this RM and grant all Technician Class operators Tech Plus priveleges.

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